

this re-set funding, we run the risk of witnessing the return of a "hollow Army" that cannot serve our national interests.

#### WARFIGHTERS

Mr. Speaker, the very foundation of our national security is not weapons systems or vehicles or munitions. No, our primary asset in the global war against terrorism is our warfighter—the brave young men and women of our armed forces who are protecting our homeland every day.

This conference report supports an active-duty force of 482-thousand Army soldiers, 340-thousand Navy personnel, 334-thousand Air Force pilots and airmen and 175-thousand Marines.

I am pleased this bill provides for another pay hike (2.2%) for our warfighters.

#### SUMMARY

This House should be proud of this legislation. It provides our fighting men and women with the resources they need to be: more deployable; more agile; more flexible; more interoperable; and more lethal in the execution of their missions.

It provides for: better training; better equipment; better weapons; and better paychecks for the troops and support for their families at home.

I am pleased to support this legislation and the warfighters who proudly wear our Nation's uniform.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I want to say thank you very much to the members on both sides of the aisle of the subcommittee. They worked diligently in a lengthy series of hearings, oversight hearings, justification hearings. I would like to compliment the staff who have worked many, many long, hard hours in resolving the differences between the House version of this bill and the Senate version of the bill. It is a great honor to work with all of these members, men and women.

I would say that this, as has been suggested, is a good bill. I urge its passage.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year's Defense Appropriations Conference Report is a step up from previous defense spending bills. It contains funding for some very inventive programs and industries located in my district and throughout Oregon that will prove vital to strengthening our national security and military preparedness.

This conference report also provides funding to the Department of Defense to begin researching and expanding its unexploded ordnance cleanup capabilities. Recently a pilot program has been implemented for the first wide area assessment which has already yielded valuable information for improving our ordnance removal methods. It is my hope that this is only the beginning of what will hopefully become a comprehensive approach to cleaning up unexploded bombs here at home as well as abroad.

Another important program that will receive funding from this bill is the Northwest Manufacturing Initiative, which gives small businesses from my area involved with defense and military applications the ability to contract on a level playing field with the rest of the defense industry. Through this program, a co-

ordinated effort between state, local, and the private industry, the Pacific Northwest is able to make its contributions to our Nation's security. From this we can ensure that the inventive and cost-effective solutions generated locally are implemented into our national defense strategy.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support for the fiscal year 2007 Defense Appropriations bill.

Today we reaffirm our support and appreciation for the members of the armed services. We have fully funded an across-the-board pay raise of 2.2 percent and increased military housing allowances. \$2 billion in funding will go to countering one of the gravest threats our soldiers face in combat, the use of IEDs. An additional \$3 billion will go to outfitting our service members and their combat vehicles with stronger armor. These are undoubtedly important priorities, and I support the funding levels in the conference report.

I am pleased with the commitment we have shown to both the Navy and to our Nation's shipbuilding industrial base. By funding five new ships this fiscal year, as well as continuing to adequately fund ships currently under construction like the LPD-17 and the LHA Replacement, we are ensuring the Navy will maintain its prominence on the world stage.

As our Nation is currently involved in a long-term war on multiple fronts, the importance of this defense funding cannot be understated. I am in favor of the conference report and I thank the Defense appropriations subcommittee for its hard work.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the conference report for the Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Appropriations Act.

Among other things, this bill contains \$50 billion for the war in Iraq, pushing the total amount U.S. taxpayers have paid for the Iraq war and the war in Afghanistan to more than \$500 billion. The vast majority of these costs are for the Iraq war.

This conference report throws billions of dollars into the sands of Iraq, while at the same time this Administration and the Republican Congress call for drastic cuts to dozens of vital domestic programs.

This is immoral and wrong. We should be investing in schools and health care for all Americans. Certainly, we should fully fund the Department of Veterans Affairs, which the Republican-controlled Congress has under-funded by \$9 billion over the past 6 years.

In 2002, in the lead-up to the war, the Administration assured the Congress and the American people that this war would be affordable.

How wrong they were! Not only is the Iraq war devastating the lives of thousands of U.S. service members and Iraqis, it is devastating our Nation's finances. The Administration must develop a plan to not only pay for this misguided endeavor but also to bring our troops home.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

### PROMOTING ANTITERRORISM CAPABILITIES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACT

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4942) to establish a capability and office to promote cooperation between entities of the United States and its allies in the global war on terrorism for the purpose of engaging in cooperative endeavors focused on the research, development, and commercialization of high-priority technologies intended to detect, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against acts of terrorism and other high consequence events and to address the homeland security needs of Federal, State, and local governments, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4942

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The development and implementation of technology is critical to combating terrorism and other high consequence events and implementing a comprehensive homeland security strategy.

(2) The United States and its allies in the global war on terrorism share a common interest in facilitating research, development, testing, and evaluation of technologies that will aid in detecting, preventing, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against acts of terrorism.

(3) Certain United States allies in the global war on terrorism, including Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and Singapore have extensive experience with, and technological expertise in, homeland security.

(4) The United States and certain of its allies in the global war on terrorism have a history of successful collaboration in developing mutually beneficial technologies in the areas of defense, agriculture, and telecommunications.

(5) The United States and its allies in the global war on terrorism will mutually benefit from the sharing of technological expertise to combat domestic and international terrorism.

(6) The establishment of a program to facilitate and support cooperative endeavors between and among government agencies, for-profit business entities, academic institutions, and nonprofit entities of the United States and its allies will safeguard lives and property worldwide against acts of terrorism and other high consequence events.

#### SEC. 3. PROMOTING ANTITERRORISM THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after section 313 (6 U.S.C. 193) the following new section:

#### "SEC. 314. PROMOTING ANTITERRORISM THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAM.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director selected under subsection (c)(1).”

“(2) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘international cooperative activities’ includes—

“(A) coordinated research projects, joint research projects, or joint ventures;

“(B) joint studies or technical demonstrations;

“(C) coordinated field exercises, scientific seminars, conferences, symposia, and workshops;

“(D) training of scientists and engineers;

“(E) visits and exchanges of scientists, engineers, or other appropriate personnel;

“(F) exchanges or sharing of scientific and technological information; and

“(G) joint use of laboratory facilities and equipment.

“(3) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ‘Under Secretary’ means the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security.

“(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ means the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

“(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Under Secretary is authorized to carry out international cooperative activities to support the responsibilities specified under section 302.

“(2) MECHANISMS AND EQUITABILITY.—In carrying out this section, the Under Secretary may award grants to and enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with United States governmental organizations, businesses, federally funded research and development centers, institutions of higher education, and foreign public or private entities. The Under Secretary shall ensure that funding and resources expended in international cooperative activities will be equitably matched by the foreign partner organization through direct funding or funding of complementary activities, or through provision of staff, facilities, materials, or equipment.

“(3) COOPERATION.—The Under Secretary is authorized to conduct international cooperative activities jointly with other agencies.

“(4) FOREIGN PARTNERS.—Under this section, the Under Secretary may form partnerships with United States allies in the global war on terrorism, including Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Singapore, and other countries as appropriate.

“(5) EXOTIC DISEASES.—As part of the international cooperative activities authorized in this section, the Under Secretary may facilitate the development of information sharing and other types of cooperative mechanisms with foreign countries, including nations in Africa, to strengthen American preparedness against threats to the Nation’s agricultural and public health sectors from exotic diseases.

“(c) PROGRAM AND DIRECTOR.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Under Secretary shall establish the Science and Technology Homeland Security International Cooperative Program to facilitate international cooperative activities throughout the Science and Technology Directorate. The Program shall be headed by a Director, who shall be selected by and shall report to the Under Secretary.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—

“(A) DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANISMS.—The Director shall be responsible for developing, in consultation with the Department of State and in coordination with other Federal agencies, mechanisms and legal frameworks to allow and to support international cooperative activities in support of homeland security research.

“(B) IDENTIFICATION OF PARTNERS.—The Director shall facilitate the matching of United States entities engaged in homeland security research with non-United States entities engaged in homeland security research so that they may partner in homeland security research activities.

“(C) COORDINATION.—The Director shall ensure that the activities under this subsection are coordinated with those of other components of the Department and of other relevant research agencies.

“(D) CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS.—The Director, periodically, shall support the planning and execution of international homeland security technology workshops and conferences to improve contact among the international community of technology developers and to help establish direction for future technology goals.

“(3) PROGRAM MANAGER AUTHORITY.—This subsection shall not be construed to limit the ability of a program manager to initiate or carry out international cooperative activities provided that such activities are appropriately coordinated with the Program established under this subsection.

“(d) BUDGET ALLOCATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, to be derived from amounts otherwise authorized for the Directorate of Science and Technology, \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2007 through 2010 for activities under this section.

“(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Under Secretary, acting through the Director, shall transmit to the Congress a report containing—

“(A) a brief description of each partnership formed under subsection (b)(4), including the participants, goals, and amount and sources of funding; and

“(B) a list of international cooperative activities underway, including the participants, goals, expected duration, and amount and sources of funding, including resources provided to support the activities in lieu of direct funding.

“(2) UPDATES.—At the end of the fiscal year that occurs 5 years after the transmittal of the report under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the Under Secretary, acting through the Director, shall transmit to the Congress an update of the report required under subsection (a).”

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 313 the following new item:

“Sec. 314. Promoting antiterrorism through international cooperation program.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCARELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise in support of H.R. 4942. This is really legislation whose time has come. Let me at the very outset commend Ranking Member THOMPSON, Chairman REICHERT of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, and my good friend from New Jersey, Mr. PASCARELL, for their tremendous cooperation and leadership on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a battle for survival. There is a war against international terrorism. It is a war in which we must know who our allies are, who our friends are. We have to know those who will stand with us through the tough times. We must know those who are willing to work with us and take risks with us.

The purpose of H.R. 4942 is to codify the right to assist in the sharing and developing of technologies, sharing of technologies between and among countries who share common values and who are dedicated to defeating international terrorism.

This legislation refers to certain specific allies in the global war on terrorism, such as Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Singapore. They have extensive experience with and technical expertise in homeland security, and we can benefit from them and they can benefit from us.

Really, the time has come for us to break down artificial barriers, artificial walls, and use the commonality of our cultures, of our traditions, of our beliefs, and use the benefit of our technological expertise to form a common bond as we go forward to defeat international terrorism.

This bill has a wide variety of support, as I believe it should. It is an aggressive step forward. It is a common-sense step forward.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4942, the Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act. This is a true product of bipartisan effort and collegial dedication.

□ 1845

I am heartened at the process by which this bill has moved forward.

In particular, I want to commend the hard work of both the chairman and the ranking member, Mr. KING, Mr. THOMPSON, and my counterpart, Chairman DAVID REICHERT, chairman of the Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology Subcommittee. Their commitment to this vitally important legislation has been unwavering, and the collaboration offered epitomizes the very best of what the Homeland Security Committee can, should, and must be. Indeed, it is a tremendous achievement to see this proposal move forward.

This legislation will help to ensure that the Department of Homeland Security works with our allies in the war on terror to develop and share the best homeland security technologies possible, and we will all be the better off because of it. This must be part of a global strategy in order to finish off terror.

H.R. 4942 will establish what we call the Science and Technology Homeland Security International Cooperative Programs Office. Its objective will be to facilitate international cooperative activities throughout the Directorate of Science and Technology within the Department of Homeland Security.

The Director of the Office, who shall report directly to the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, will be responsible for developing mechanisms and legal frameworks to allow and support international cooperative activity in support of homeland security research;

To identify and match domestic entities engaged in homeland security research with foreign entities so that they may partner in homeland security research activities;

To ensure coordination of international cooperative activities carried out by the Office with the activities of other components of the Department and other relative research agencies; and

Holding international homeland security technology workshops and conferences.

We saw in a recent trip of the Homeland Security Committee to Europe the significance of working closely with our allies. These international cooperative activities will be supported through grants, cooperative agreements, contracts with U.S. governmental organizations and businesses, federally funded research and development centers, institutions of higher education, and foreign public and private entities.

The bill seeks to strengthen ongoing partnerships as well as encourage new ones. And the bill specifically says that we should seek to partner with our allies in this global war, as the chairman has pointed out. This global war or terrorism includes our closest allies, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Israel, and Singapore.

To be sure, the United States would greatly benefit from joint international homeland security development programs between the United States and our allies in the war on terror. The fact is this: Many of our allies have substantial experience dealing with terrorism. By necessity, they have become hotbeds for counterterrorism research.

The bill authorizes \$25 million for international cooperation and cooperative activities for each of the fiscal years 2007 to 2010. It requires that the funds come out of the existing budget of the directorate of Science and Technology. \$25 million is not a lot of money when we consider the vast array

of benefits that such cooperation can produce.

Forming partnerships and working together in a way that will ultimately help secure America is the main objective of the bill, again, of global strategy, and it should always be the main objective of this body. Passage of the legislation today shows that the House takes this austere responsibility seriously.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, let me just concur in what the gentleman from New Jersey said about the bipartisan cooperation; and I want to especially thank him and the ranking member for the tremendous cooperation he gave us on this legislation.

I yield as much time as he may consume to the author of the legislation, the Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, Sheriff REICHERT from the State of Washington.

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I remember the day when this legislation first kind of came to our attention. I attended a meeting with some good friends from our Israeli community, Jewish community, and we had this idea. And to watch it come from that day many months ago, just a discussion around a concept, to today when the legislation has finally come together is indeed exciting; and to know, too, that it is a bipartisan effort.

I congratulate the chairman, Mr. KING, and his wisdom and foresight in seeing that this is an important project, an important piece of legislation and moving it forward; and his good friend and my good friend, Mr. BENNIE THOMPSON, the ranking member of that committee; and also my good friend, my colleague from the subcommittee, Mr. PASCRELL; all working hard together, the staff of the Democrats and Republicans working hard on this legislation to make it come to the floor of the House of Representatives today.

As the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4942, the Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act. My subcommittee passed H.R. 4942 on March 15; and on June 14, 2006, it was approved by the full Homeland Security Committee.

I congratulate again the chairman of the full committee and the ranking member and Mr. PASCRELL for all their hard work and all members of the committee for their support.

In just over 2 weeks since the 5-year anniversary of September 11, the 9/11 Commission's recommendations have taken center stage again as a principal guide to our Nation's homeland security measures. It is important that they take that role.

In its report, the 9/11 Commission recommended, and I quote, "the United States should engage other nations in developing a comprehensive coalition

strategy against Islamist terrorism. There are several multilateral institutions in which such issues should be addressed, but the most important policies should be discussed and coordinated in a flexible contact group of leading coalition governments."

There is no question that one of these important policies is the development of homeland security technologies that keep our country safe. H.R. 4942 implements the Commission's recommendations by applying it to the homeland security technology we develop to help our Nation's first responders prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism, national disasters, and other emergencies.

Echoing the 9/11 Commission recommendation on international cooperation in the war on terrorism, the title of 4942 says it all: The Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act.

The United States, Israel, and our allies confront a common enemy and share similar homeland security challenges. Cooperation inside our government among Federal agencies and cooperation outside our government with Israel and our allies could very well prove to be the deciding factor in the war on terror.

Specifically, H.R. 4942 enables the Department of Homeland Security's research and development arm, the Science and Technology Directorate, to coordinate international cooperative programs with our allies to advance homeland security research. The Science and Technology Directorate at the Department would coordinate joint research studies, scientist exchange programs, cooperative field exercises, and technology sharing with our strongest and most trusted allies in the war on terrorism, including Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Singapore.

Today, the United States cooperates with these nations to develop the best technologies to defeat our shared terrorist threat. H.R. 4942 makes those partnerships even stronger, with the force of law and the will of Congress behind them.

H.R. 4942 is modeled after a partnership created by Congress in 1977 between the United States and Israel called the Bi-national Industrial Research and Development Foundation, or the so-called BIRD Foundation.

The mission of the BIRD Foundation is to stimulate, promote, and support industrial research and development of mutual benefit to both nations. In 29 years, the BIRD Foundation has invested \$225 million in 690 cooperative research and development projects mutually beneficial to the United States and Israel. The BIRD model serves as a solid foundation of international cooperation in homeland security research and development.

The international cooperation enabled by H.R. 4942 will give our Nation access to a worldwide library of lessons

learned and scientific expertise that will no doubt strengthen our own homeland security measures. It is our duty, as allies united under a common purpose, to defeat terrorism, that we join forces in the laboratory to combat our shared adversaries and meet our similar technology needs.

H.R. 4942 incorporates the wisdom of the 9/11 Commission and the BIRD Foundation partnership between the United States and Israel to strengthen our hand in developing technologies that will make us all, the United States and its allies alike, safer and more secure.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this critical legislation.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he wishes to consume to the ranking member of Homeland Security, my friend, and a gentleman in all sense of the word, from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from New Jersey for those kind words.

I rise this evening in strong support of H.R. 4942, the Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act, which Chairman KING and I introduced along with Chairman REICHERT and Ranking Member PASCRELL and other Members. I am happy to see this bill finally make it to the House floor.

I first raised the idea of this bill in January 2005, soon after I became ranking member. I know my Democratic colleagues had pushed for it in the 108th Congress as well. While it took a while to get my colleagues on board, I was glad when they finally did. The product before us today is a good one.

Personally, I expressly want to thank Chris Beck and Todd Gee from my staff and Andy Weiss from the majority staff for their hard work on this bill.

The threat of terrorism is an international one. Terrorist attacks occur all over the world, and we must promote international cooperation to stop them.

Cooperation in developing antiterrorism technology should be a top priority. The different challenges faced by our many friends around the world have resulted in new approaches that the United States should leverage to protect our citizens.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the United States has a history of conducting scientific and technological collaborations with Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and others. The Department of Homeland Security has participated in some of these partnerships with foreign governments and others. This legislation will encourage and further strengthen those efforts, as well as direct the Department to look to new partners beyond those we already have.

I am especially heartened that this bill will strengthen the means for protecting our Nation's agriculture and public health from exotic diseases.

Emerging diseases that can affect both animals and humans are a threat to the world's population. Active collaboration with scientists in Africa, where many of these diseases originate, should be promoted. I am glad this bill encourages that collaboration.

Too often, Mr. Speaker, the United States presents a posture of unilateralism to the world. I hope that through programs like the one authorized in this legislation we encourage a more cooperative approach.

I strongly support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1900

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we stated, H.R. 4942 will enable us to work with certain allies, Israel, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Singapore, to engage with them in cooperative endeavors, focus on research, development, the commercialization of high-priority technologies, and enable us to prevent acts of terrorism and address the homeland security needs of Federal, State and local governments.

The gentleman from New Jersey referenced the \$25 million for each of the fiscal years from 2007 to 2010. That money is to be matched in each instance by the foreign partner organizations who participate in this international cooperative activity. This is very significant legislation. It is very vital. I would certainly urge the passage of the bill.

But before I yield back my time, I would like to include for the RECORD letters exchanged between the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Science regarding jurisdiction over H.R. 4942. I certainly thank the Science Committee and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) for their input on this bill and thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, September 22, 2006.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman, Committee on Science,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your recent letter expressing the Science Committee's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 4942, the "Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act." The Committee on Homeland Security acknowledges your claim to jurisdiction over provisions contained in this bill, as amended, and appreciates your agreement not to request a sequential referral. The Committee on Homeland Security understands that nothing in this legislation or your decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Science Committee, and that a copy of this letter and of our response will be included in the Committee report and in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the House Floor. The Committee on Homeland Security will also support your request to be conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards the enactment of H.R. 4942.

Sincerely,

PETER T. KING,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
Washington, DC, September 21, 2006.

Hon. PETER T. KING,  
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Science Committee in matters being considered in H.R. 4942, the Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act, as amended by the Homeland Security Committee. The Science Committee has jurisdictional interest in this bill based on the Committee's jurisdiction over the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, "DHS S&T", and other DHS research and development (See Rule X(o)(14) which grants the Science Committee jurisdiction over "Scientific research, development, and demonstration, and projects therefore").

This bill would amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a capability and office within DHS S&T to promote international "cooperative endeavors focused on research, development, and commercialization of high-priority technologies intended to detect, prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against acts of terrorism and other high consequence events." All of the international cooperative activities authorized by the bill relate to homeland security research (e.g., "coordinated research projects, joint research projects, or joint ventures;" "training of scientists and engineers;" and "joint use of laboratory facilities and equipment"). In addition, the funding for such activities is to be derived from amounts otherwise authorized to DHS S&T.

The Science Committee acknowledges the importance of H.R. 4942 and the need for the legislation to move expeditiously. Therefore, while we have a valid claim to jurisdiction over this bill, I agree not to request a sequential referral. This, of course, is conditional on our mutual understanding that nothing in this legislation or my decision to forgo a sequential referral waives, reduces or otherwise affects the jurisdiction of the Science Committee, and that a copy of this letter and of your response will be included in the Committee report and in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when the bill is considered on the House Floor.

The Science Committee also expects that you will support our request to be conferees during any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 4942 and thank the cosponsors and sponsors of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4942, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MORE BORDER PATROL AGENTS NOW ACT OF 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6160) to recruit and retain Border Patrol agents.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6160

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "More Border Patrol Agents Now Act of 2006".

### SEC. 2. BORDER PATROL AGENT ENHANCEMENT.

(a) **PLAN.**—In order to address the recruitment and retention challenges faced by the United States Border Patrol, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan to determine how the Border Patrol can better recruit and retain Border Patrol agents with the appropriate skills and training to effectively carry out its mission and responsibilities.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following components:

(1) A strategy for the utilization of the recruitment authority provided in subsection (a) of section 9702 of title 5, United States Code (as added by section 3), as well as any other strategies the Secretary determines to be important in recruiting well-qualified Border Patrol agents.

(2) A strategy for the utilization of the retention authority provided in subsection (b) of section 9702 of title 5, United States Code (as added by section 3), as well as any other strategies the Secretary determines to be important in retaining well-qualified Border Patrol agents.

(3) An assessment of the impact that current pay levels for Border Patrol agents has on the Department's ability to recruit and retain Border Patrol agents, especially in high cost-of-living areas.

(4) An assessment of whether increased opportunities for Border Patrol agents to transfer between duty stations would improve employee morale and enhance the Department's ability to recruit and retain well-qualified Border Patrol agents.

### SEC. 3. RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION BONUSES FOR BORDER PATROL AGENT ENHANCEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 97 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "§ 9702. Border Patrol agent enhancement"

"(a) **RECRUITMENT BONUSES FOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to carry out the plan described in section 2(a) of the More Border Patrol Agents Now Act of 2006, the Secretary of Homeland Security may pay a bonus to an individual to recruit a sufficient number of Border Patrol agents.

"(2) **BONUS AMOUNT.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount of a bonus under this subsection shall be determined by the Secretary, but may not exceed 25 percent of the annual rate of basic pay of the position involved as of the beginning of the pe-

riod of service referred to in paragraph (3)(A).

"(B) **LUMP-SUM.**—A bonus under this subsection shall be paid in the form of a lump-sum payment and shall not be considered to be part of basic pay.

"(3) **SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**—Payment of a bonus under this section shall be contingent upon the individual entering into a written service agreement with the United States Border Patrol. The agreement shall include—

"(A) the period of service the individual shall be required to complete in return for the bonus; and

"(B) the conditions under which the agreement may be terminated before the agreed-upon service period has been completed, and the effect of such termination.

"(4) **LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY.**—A bonus under this section may not be paid to recruit an individual for—

"(A) a position to which an individual is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

"(B) a position in the Senior Executive Service as a noncareer appointee (as defined in section 3132(a)); or

"(C) a position which has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character.

"(5) **TERMINATION.**—The authority to pay bonuses under this subsection shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this section.

"(b) **RETENTION BONUSES FOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to carry out the plan described in section 2(a) of the More Border Patrol Agents Now Act of 2006, the Secretary of Homeland Security may pay a retention bonus to a Border Patrol agent.

"(2) **SERVICE AGREEMENT.**—Payment of a bonus under this subsection is contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the United States Border Patrol to complete a period of service with the Border Patrol. Such agreement shall include—

"(A) the period of service the employee shall be required to complete in return for the bonus; and

"(B) the conditions under which the agreement may be terminated before the agreed-upon service period has been completed, and the effect of such termination.

"(3) **BONUS AMOUNT.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount of a bonus under this subsection shall be determined by the Secretary, but may not exceed 25 percent of the annual rate of basic pay of the position involved as of the beginning of the period of service referred to in paragraph (2)(A).

"(B) **LUMP-SUM.**—A bonus under this subsection shall be paid in the form of a lump-sum payment and shall not be considered to be part of basic pay.

"(4) **LIMITATION.**—A bonus under this subsection may not be based on any period of service which is the basis for a recruitment bonus under subsection (a).

"(5) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The authority to grant bonuses under this subsection shall expire five years after the date of the enactment of this section.

"(c) **WAIVER AUTHORITY RELATING TO REEMPLOYED ANNUITANTS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to help address the challenges faced by the United States Border Patrol, the Secretary of Homeland Security may appoint annuitants to positions within the United States Border Patrol in accordance with succeeding provisions of this subsection.

"(2) **EXCLUSION FROM OFFSET.**—An annuitant serving in a position within the United

States Border Patrol pursuant to an appointment made under paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall not be subject to the provisions of section 8344 or 8468, as the case may be; and

"(B) shall not, for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84, be considered an employee.

"(3) **LIMITATIONS.**—

"(A) **APPOINTMENTS.**—The authority to make any appointments under paragraph (1) shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this subsection.

"(B) **EXCLUSION.**—The provisions of paragraph (2) shall not, in the case of any annuitant appointed under paragraph (1), remain in effect—

"(i) with respect to more than five years of service (in the aggregate); nor

"(ii) with respect to any service performed after the end of the ten-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection.

"(4) **NO DISPLACEMENT.**—No appointment under this subsection may be made if such appointment would result in the displacement of any Border Patrol employee.

"(5) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'annuitant' has the meaning given such term by section 8331 or 8401, as the case may be."

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents for chapter 97 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"9702. Border Patrol agent enhancement."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6160, the More Border Patrol Agents Now Act of 2006. This legislation will help Border Patrol put agents along our Nation's borders now, quickly and cost efficiently.

Securing our Nation's borders is an issue that ranks at the top of the list for many Americans. The President has responded by committing at least 6,000 new Border Patrol agents on our borders over the next 2 years. I wholeheartedly support this commitment, and the provisions in my bill will help us reach this goal.

Shockingly, the Border Patrol statistics show that an average of 33 applicants must be vetted before just one is hired. This means that 66,000 applicants must be screened before just 2,000 new agents are hired.

In addition, Border Patrol typically loses 700 agents annually to retirements and other law enforcement agencies. My bill addresses these personnel challenges.